

New Covid Mini-Omnibus From IGPC

by John F. Dunn

The nations of the world continue to issue stamps to honor the heroes who are fighting Covid-19 and to remember those who have died, which is now approaching the 1,000,000 mark.

Meanwhile, the USPS, now past the 200,000 deaths mark, still has not indicated that they are giving any thought to such an issue. Although there has been some speculation that the Trump administration does not want to issue a reminder of the pandemic and the death toll, I would like to think that it is another demonstration of a distorted selection process.

Another possibility is that a stamp will be issued after a successful vaccine is developed. That assumes, as expected, it will be developed by a U.S. pharmaceutical house. (We can ignore the fact that Russia, according to Putin, already has developed a vaccine.)

In any event, the latest Covid-19 themed issues come to us by way of a mini-omnibus orchestrated by the Inter-Governmental Philatelic Corp. of New York. There may be more to come, as IGPC represents more than 70 postal administrations.

Per the announcement for IGPC, "...as a global community we have always come together to help others and beat the worst of enemies. To honor those of the International Medical Community who have worked tirelessly, day and night, working to save as many lives as possible, governments around the world have chosen a unique way to pay tribute to the men and women on the front lines.

We are proud to announce that the Government Postal Authorities of the African Nation of The Gambia and the Pacific Island Nations of the

Marshall Islands and Tuvalu have approved these unique stamp designs and are the first to be part of this global initiative. [Subsequently other nations, included here, have joined this mini-omnibus.]

"World renowned stamp artist, Ron Rundo of New York has been designing stamps for IGPC since 1991, created the designs. Each stamp sheet consists of 4 official postage stamps that illustrate the tremendous research and work by those fighting the battle against the novel COVID-19 virus. The selvedge area shows various symbols and illustrations relative to the Corona Virus and now common to the world at large. At the bottom of the stamp sheet the design includes the Latin proverb: "Finis Coronat Opus" - The End Crowns The Work."

Sam Malamud, President of IGPC, having reviewed the stamp designs commented, "Being a survivor of the COVID-19 virus, I can say first hand that my wife and I would not have survived without the tireless efforts of the EMS First Responders and the continued support of the medical staff in my community. Round the clock care from the Front-Line healthcare workers kept us and thousands of other men and women alive and we are forever grateful."

Mr. Malamud further stated, "Honoring these men and women on official postage stamps will serve as global ambassadors for all eternity. When these postage stamps are used to mail a letter to a mom or dad, a postcard from a visitor to these beautiful countries, these healthcare workers will be immortalized for their selfless acts of bravery." [All the more reason for the United States to issue one or more stamps. JFD.]

Shown here are the Covid-19 issues from The Gambia, Grenada, Marshall Islands, Palau and Tuvalu.

For additional issues, please go to www.igpc.com.

